

CHP investigates food poisoning case related to wild mushrooms

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (April 29) investigating a food poisoning case related to the consumption of wild mushrooms, and urged the public not to pick and eat wild mushrooms.

The case involves a 51-year-old female, who developed vomiting and diarrhoea about one hour after consuming wild mushrooms at home on April 25. She sought medical attention at the Accident and Emergency Department of North District Hospital on the same day and was admitted for treatment. She has been in a stable condition and was discharged.

Initial investigations revealed that the patient picked the wild mushrooms consumed from the roadside in Shek Wu Hui, Sheung Shui on April 25. The CHP's investigation is ongoing.

"Members of the public should not pick wild mushrooms for consumption as it is difficult to distinguish edible mushroom species from inedible ones," a spokesman for the CHP said.

"Mushroom poisoning is generally acute. Common presentations include gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain appearing shortly after ingestion. Depending on the mushroom species, patients may also have other symptoms like profuse sweating, hallucinations, coma or other neurological symptoms, as well as liver failure. Death may result in severe cases," he added.

"If mushroom poisoning is suspected, the patient should seek immediate medical attention and bring along any available remnant for identification," the spokesman said.